



Subject:	Election Accounts – May 2019
Date:	22nd November, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Mr John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal & Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Mr Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To advise the Committee of the cost to the Council of the Local Government Elections in May 2019.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none">note the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The local council expenditure for delivering Local Government Elections is, under the provision of the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962, constrained by a scale of expenditure set by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

3.2	The Local Election Fees and Expenses Scale for Belfast City Council for May 2019 was £650,100. This excludes the cost of candidates' mailing, which is not included within that maximum. However, that cost still has to be covered by the Council.																																																																								
3.3	The Cost of administering the election was £584,374.61, which was within the budget set by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). With the additional cost of candidates' mailing being £268,634.03 this brings the total cost to the Council to £853,008.64.																																																																								
3.4	Compared with the cost of the Elections in 2014 of £618,114, this is an increase of £234,894.64																																																																								
3.5	This increase is due principally to the fact that in 2014, as well as the Local Government Elections, for which the Council has responsibility, there was also a European Election, which falls under responsibility of the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI), the costs to cover the polling stations, polling staff, etc. was split between the Council and EONI.																																																																								
3.6	As this year was a single election, the Council is required to bear that cost. A breakdown of the costs is set out below:																																																																								
<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1059 842 1115">Limit set by the NIO</td> <td data-bbox="842 1059 1129 1115"></td> <td data-bbox="1129 1059 1410 1115" style="text-align: right;">£650,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1115 842 1160"><u>Direct Costs to Council</u></td> <td data-bbox="842 1115 1129 1160"></td> <td data-bbox="1129 1115 1410 1160"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1160 842 1193">Staff costs</td> <td data-bbox="842 1160 1129 1193" style="text-align: right;">£142,186.60</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1160 1410 1193"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1193 842 1227">Printing of ballot papers</td> <td data-bbox="842 1193 1129 1227" style="text-align: right;">£29,600.00</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1193 1410 1227"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1227 842 1261">EONI - Registration of Electors</td> <td data-bbox="842 1227 1129 1261" style="text-align: right;">£15,543.73</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1227 1410 1261"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1261 842 1294">Public Notices</td> <td data-bbox="842 1261 1129 1294" style="text-align: right;">£10,567.73</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1261 1410 1294"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1294 842 1328">Count security, incl. access passes</td> <td data-bbox="842 1294 1129 1328" style="text-align: right;">£5,536.86</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1294 1410 1328"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1328 842 1361">Equipment Hire</td> <td data-bbox="842 1328 1129 1361" style="text-align: right;">£5,078.00</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1328 1410 1361"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1361 842 1395">Furniture hire</td> <td data-bbox="842 1361 1129 1395" style="text-align: right;">£4,885.00</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1361 1410 1395"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1395 842 1429">Count Stationery and signage</td> <td data-bbox="842 1395 1129 1429" style="text-align: right;">£2,294.17</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1395 1410 1429"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1429 842 1462"></td> <td data-bbox="842 1429 1129 1462" style="text-align: right;">£215,692.09</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1429 1410 1462"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1462 842 1507"><u>EONI costs charged to Council</u></td> <td data-bbox="842 1462 1129 1507"></td> <td data-bbox="1129 1462 1410 1507"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1507 842 1541">Staffing</td> <td data-bbox="842 1507 1129 1541" style="text-align: right;">£222,285.72</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1507 1410 1541"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1541 842 1574">Postage</td> <td data-bbox="842 1541 1129 1574" style="text-align: right;">£99,858.83</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1541 1410 1574"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1574 842 1608">Stationery/Printing</td> <td data-bbox="842 1574 1129 1608" style="text-align: right;">£18,634.85</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1574 1410 1608"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1608 842 1641">Transportation/Travel</td> <td data-bbox="842 1608 1129 1641" style="text-align: right;">£17,291.82</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1608 1410 1641"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1641 842 1675">Use of Premises</td> <td data-bbox="842 1641 1129 1675" style="text-align: right;">£7,188.76</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1641 1410 1675"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1675 842 1709">Hire of Equipment</td> <td data-bbox="842 1675 1129 1709" style="text-align: right;">£3,422.54</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1675 1410 1709"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1709 842 1742"></td> <td data-bbox="842 1709 1129 1742" style="text-align: right;">£368,682.52</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1709 1410 1742"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1742 842 1776"></td> <td data-bbox="842 1742 1129 1776"></td> <td data-bbox="1129 1742 1410 1776"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1776 842 1832" style="text-align: right;">Sub total</td> <td data-bbox="842 1776 1129 1832" style="text-align: right;">£584,374.61</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1776 1410 1832" style="text-align: right;">£65,725.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1832 842 1865"></td> <td data-bbox="842 1832 1129 1865"></td> <td data-bbox="1129 1832 1410 1865"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1865 842 1899"><u>Candidates' Mailing</u></td> <td data-bbox="842 1865 1129 1899" style="text-align: right;">£268,634.03</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1865 1410 1899"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1899 842 1933" style="text-align: right;">Total cost to the Council</td> <td data-bbox="842 1899 1129 1933" style="text-align: right;">£853,008.64</td> <td data-bbox="1129 1899 1410 1933"></td> </tr> </table>		Limit set by the NIO		£650,100	<u>Direct Costs to Council</u>			Staff costs	£142,186.60		Printing of ballot papers	£29,600.00		EONI - 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3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There were sufficient funds in the relevant specified reserve to meet the election costs. The reserve will need to be maintained and possibly enhanced in the future to meet the cost of the 2023 election.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.8	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.